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Greene County awarded federal funding for Opportunity House

TRACY CITY, Tenn., April 19, 2010 — USDA Rural Development State Director Bobby Goode today announced federal funding of \$273,000 for Opportunity House of Greene County Inc. (OHGC) The presentation took place at site of the new building in Greeneville.

"Providing services to people in need is the mission Opportunity House has taken on," said Goode. "Thanks to the support of our congressional delegation, Rural Development has the financial resources to invest in a building like this that provides assistance to so many people in the county."

According to OHGC President Tommy Ottinger the \$173,000 Community Facilities loan and the \$100,000 CF grant will be combined with \$60,000 in OHGC funds for a total investment of \$333,000 to the Greene County community. The funds will be used to purchase and renovate an existing building converting it into a thrift store. Opportunity House provides temporary lodging and meals to people who do not have a permanent home and helps them to become self-supporting, contributing members of the community.

Rural Development community programs finance construction of or improvements to essential services like reliable access to clean water, wastewater treatment, healthcare, education, job training and first responder facilities. Loan-guarantees encourage private lenders to expand the availability of affordable financing in rural communities. Direct loans and grants create sound financial opportunities for local governments to meet essential infrastructure needs.

Others participating in the event included Sen. Lamar Alexander's representative Lana Moore, Sen. Bob Corker's representative Bridgette Baird, Greeneville Mayor Loraine King, Opportunity House Board President Chuck Jeffors, Shelter Director Vicki Smith, Rural Development Area Director Charles Brooks and Area Specialist Louis Trivette.

USDA Rural Development invests in jobs, businesses, community infrastructure, homeownership and affordable rental housing in rural communities. Last year Rural Development assisted more than 866,000 Tennessee families and businesses with more than \$619 million in financial assistance through affordable loans, loan guarantees and grants.

For more information on Rural Development programs available in Northeast Tennessee contact the Rural Development Area Office in Greeneville at 423-638-4771 ext. 4, toll free at 1-800-342-3149 extension 1490, or visit us online at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tn>.

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